



UNIVERSITY OF GONDAR

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Community Service Booklet

GONDAR

ETHIOPIA

Preface

Solving problems of the community through services has been the commitment of University of Gondar since its very establishment. Initially established to respond to the outbreak of malaria in Demebya, University of Gondar has continued to serving the surrounding community with a motto of “Proudly community servant”. The commitment to this motto has continued to be reflected particularly in the increasing trends in problem solving research outputs and provision of community intervention projects, making the university the leading institution in serving the nation with commitment and dedication.

This tradition has continued and the services to community has expended tremendously in 2007 Ethiopian budget year. In addition to important programs and projects implemented by the community service directorate, more than 47 academic faculty projects were funded by the University of Gondar were implemented by Colleges/faculties/schools. There are also 28 ongoing community service projects funded by the partner organization.

This community service booklet present an overview of the major community service projects implemented in 2007 Ethiopian budget year. Although a very brief summary of the vast community service activities implemented by University of Gondar, we believe readers can draw important lessons and inspirations form the community services projects summarized in contained in here. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all those who are engaged in community service activities and we are confident the academic community at University of Gondar will keep up this vibe and contribute towards the realization of our Growth and Transformation Plan ahead of us.

The Community Service Directorate

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose Statement, Vision and Values of office of Vice President for Research and Community Services (VPRCS) of UoG

1.1.1. Purpose Statement of VRCS

The office of Vice President for Research and Community Services is enthusiastic in facilitating problem based research undertakings and the delivery of creditable community services based on the needs of the society and disseminates research outputs.

1.1.2. Vision of the office of VPRCS

The vision of VPRCS office is aspiring to see the University of Gondar as a prominent institution renowned for its research and community services in the nation.

1.1.3. Values of the office of VPRCS

Quality at all: we greatly endorse the undertaking of quality researches and community services.

Teamwork: by its nature the organizational structure of VPRCS highly demands team work, i.e., the activity of one is related directly or indirectly with the other. Therefore, we decidedly promote teamwork.

Care for partners: Our goals will be achieved in close collaboration with our partners. Thus, we greatly value our partners.

Committed to ethics: Compliance to legal, social and professional ethics and norms is crucial for our development and goodwill.

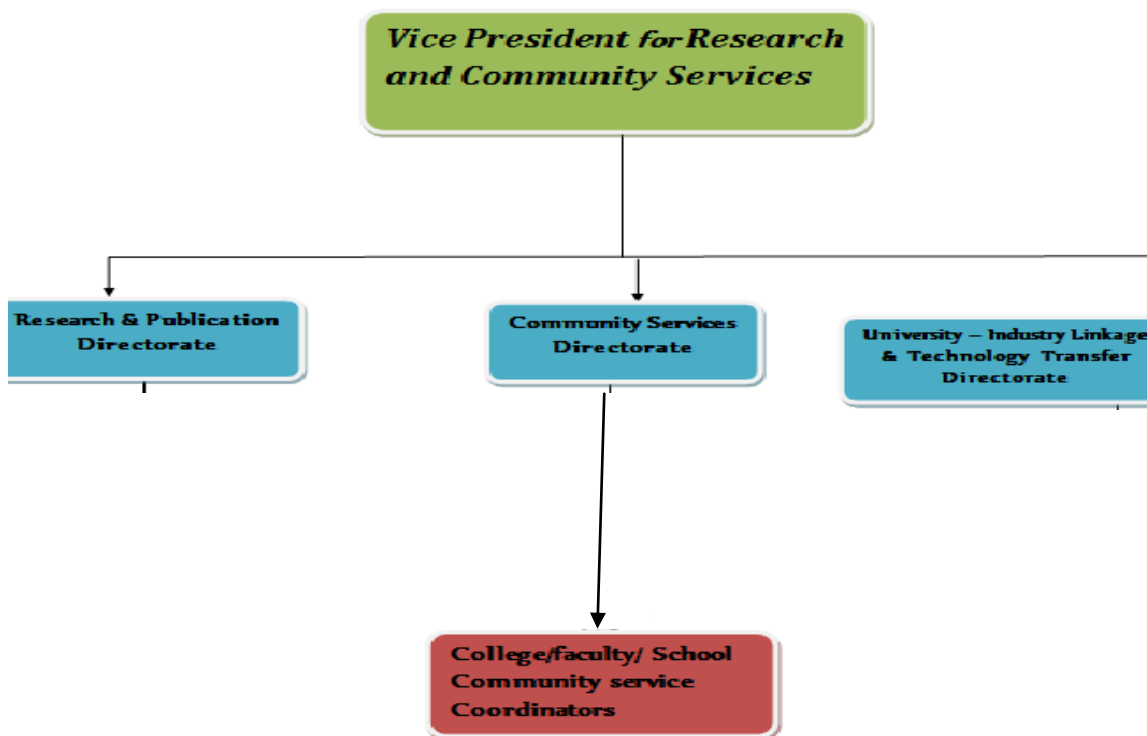
Creativity and Innovation: Introducing new working conditions and generating valuable knowledge and technology are the backbones for the success of the Core Process.

Proudly community servant: Serving the community with all paramount efforts will enhance both the living condition of the community and moral satisfaction of the employees in the Office.

2. Background of the Community Service Directorate

The University Of Gondar requires all academic staffs to spend 15% of their working hours on providing community services. Indeed, the community services engagement is an integral part of the academic staffs' performance appraisal and promotion. Before August 2014, the community service activities were coordinated through a Community Service Liaison Office. However, as the volume of the community services increased in the last few years, coordinating the community services of staffs and students required a consolidated structure and additional manpower. Thus, in August 2014, the university established the Community Service Directorate and Coordination Offices in each college, faculty and school.

Figure 1: Organizational Structure



3. Community Service Directorate Flagship projects in 2007 E.C

3.1 Academic Staff Projects Funded by University of Gondar

At the beginning of the budget year, the office announced a call to all academic staffs for the community service proposals. To this end, the response to the call was enormous with 116 proposals submitted. The Directorate Office assigned more than 95% of the budget to faculty projects. However, due to constraints of budget, only the best 47 (40.5%) projects were selected in all colleges/faculties/ schools and granted by the University of Gondar. The selection of the projects was made based on the criterion set by the Directorate office.

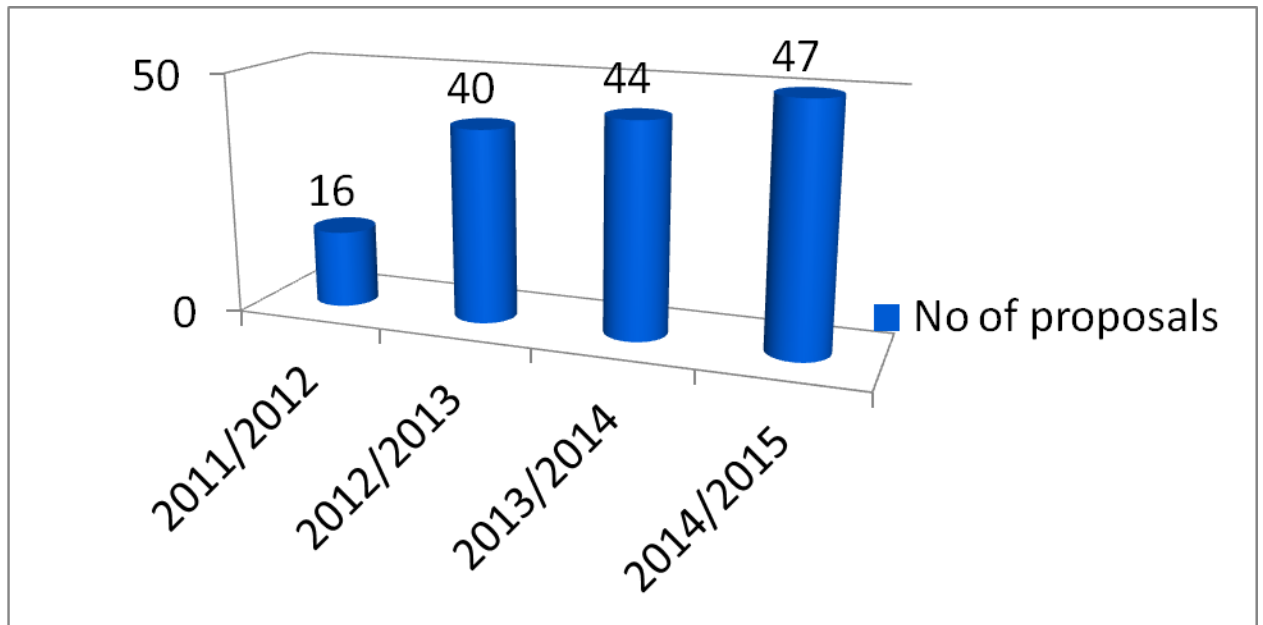


Fig.1. Community Service Proposals Funded by UOG in the last four Years

The projects funded have diverse orientation and focus and are selected for their innovative strategies to address pressing community problems.

3.2 Save Lake Tana Program

Lake Tana, sometimes called "Dembiya" after the region to the north of the lake, is the source of the Blue Nile and is the largest lake in Ethiopia. Located in Amhara Region in the north-western Ethiopian Highlands, the lake is approximately 84 kilometers long and

66 kilometers wide, with a maximum depth of 15 meters, at an elevation of 1,788 meters. Lake Tana is fed by the Lesser Abay, Reb and Gumara rivers; and its surface area ranges from 3,000 to 3,500 km², depending on season and rainfall. Lake Tana was formed by volcanic activity, blocking the course of inflowing rivers in the early Pleistocene times circa 5 million years ago. The lake level has been regulated since the construction of the control weir where the lake discharges into the Blue Nile because of its very great importance beyond Ethiopia.

However, it has been recently observed that Lake Tana have been affected by one of the top ten worst aquatic weeds, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), in the world hampering a number of economic and ecological activities mentioned above. It is a vigorously growing aquatic species which is known to double its population in every two weeks posing an open challenge saying “catch me if you can”. It is considered as one of the key pressures on world’s biodiversity: altering ecosystem services and processes, reducing native species’ abundance and richness, and decreasing genetic diversity of ecosystems

In this context, it is worth mentioning that not very long ago (in September 2011) this noxious and hazardous weed was observed for the first time on the northern shores of Lake Tana that has now become a matter of concerns.



Picture 1: Water Hyacinth Infestation

Before this weed becomes uncontrollable and unmanageable menace, a **Task Force** has been constituted under the leadership of this university to eradicate and prevent this weed from further propagation and spread. This has been made through multidisciplinary approach consisting of scientists drawn from different disciplines such as Engineering, Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Health Science, Environmental science etc. The Task Force named its project as “Save Lake Tana program” and started its venture with a trip to Lake Tana. The objectives of the trip were to:

- ✓ Create a common understanding among the scientific community on the enormity and gravity of water hyacinth through field visit.
- ✓ Critically cram and outline efficient and quick methods for controlling the infestation
- ✓ Draw an agreed and time-sensitive road map which will be submitted for policy makers for an immediate action



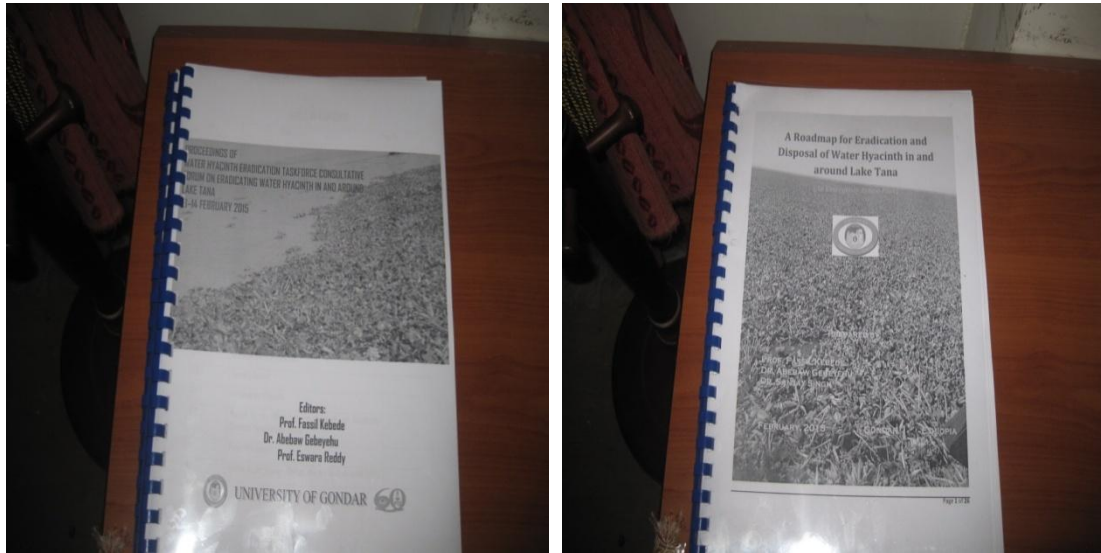
Picture 2: Participants of the Trip to Lake Tana

The on-site meeting gathering brainstormed on a number of strategies and agreed for a consultative meeting to further scrutinize the proposed methods and decide on the most effective and economically efficient method. Accordingly, the Task Force held an expert consultative meeting on how to eradicate and control water hyacinth. The Objectives of Consultative Meeting were to:

- Create a common understanding among the scientific community on the enormity and gravity of water hyacinth through field visit.
- Critically cram and outline efficient and quick methods for controlling the infestation
- Draw an agreed and time-sensitive road map which will be submitted for policy makers for an immediate action?

During the consultative meeting, scientific papers on water hyacinth as well as the efforts of University of Gondar, Bahir Dar University and the Amhara Regional State were presented. The presentations stimulated wide discussion among participants who were grouped in to different expert sub-groups and reported on their preferred method to

control the weed. Finally, keeping the biology and the mode of growth, propagation and spread of this aquatic weed into mind the major emphasis is placed on the execution of a rather rapid and effective technique of manual-cum-mechanical method for its eradication. A **Roadmap** document explaining the strategies and specific actions the University implemented was prepared based on the discussion of the consultative meeting.



Picture 3: A Proceeding of the Consultative Meeting and a Roadmap Document for Eradication and Disposal of Water Hyacinth in and around Lake Tana

Based on the road map, a campaign involving university staff and students was held on May 11, 2007.



Picture 4: Participants of the campaign 'Save Lake Tana'

The University of Gondar will intensify its effort to control the water hyacinth and protect Lake Tana basin in the coming years. The university will commit more finance to Save Lake Tana program.

3.3 Student Support Services Development Project

The University of Gondar is well known for its motto of “student first”. The university has demonstrated its commitment to this motto through the expansion of student services and facilities. This project, which the community service was mandated to implement as a special program, is aimed at contributing to the improvement of hygiene and sanitation in student services in cafeteria and boarding rooms.

The main purpose of this project is to reduce the burden and transmission of hygiene and sanitation-related diseases by improving the hygiene and sanitation knowledge and practices of the Janitors and food handlers, protectors and hygiene workers in student cafeterias and dormitories.

Objectives of the project

- To develop food safety knowledge of the food handlers
- To improve food safety practices of the food handlers
- To improve the sanitation conditions of the campus
- To control occupational hazards which may occur in different working units

The project involved two interrelated set of activities. The first set involved six days training for Janitors and food handlers, protectors and hygiene workers in student cafeteria’s and dormitories. Accordingly, trainings were given for a total of 750 cafeteria and dormitories workers in two rounds. Trainers from the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety held on site assessments and discussions to inform and develop contextual training contents. The second set of activities comprises modifications and improvement of tools used by Janitors and food handlers to increase their effectiveness and ensure their safety. Discussions were held with workers on the gaps of the tools they use to understand their desired preferences.



Picture 5: Janitors and food handlers, protectors and hygiene workers in student cafeterias and dormitories at training (Meles Zenawi Campus)

3.4 University of Gondar Youth Center

Adebabay Eyesus sub-city is one of the poorest districts in Gondar city administration. The district is believed to have more than 10,000 people, 52% are women and 30% are under the age of 18. There are 600 orphan and vulnerable children living in this district. It has been difficult for the youth who inhabit at the area to afford the expenses of recreational services.

The University of Gondar Youth Center, located at Adebabay Eyesus sub-city, was established in February 2007. The center is being operated by the Community Service Directorate and has one coordinator, six Guidance and Counselors, and two peer education volunteer facilitators. In addition, faculty and students of the University are using the Center for field placements and research activities. On average, the Center is visited by 72 youth per day. From February 20 up to now, about 7880 youth are benefited.



Picture 6: Partial view of the youth center

Baseline assessment was undertaken by selected instructors from the University to determine the specific needs of the youth. Based on the assessment, the University of Gondar Youth Center is providing all-rounded and age-appropriate services for the beneficiaries. The services provided by the center are categorized under three components.

3.4.1 Recreation Services

There are different recreational equipments hosted at the Youth Center which are provided by the University. It largely focuses on promoting psychosocial wellbeing of the youth in general. The recreational equipments can be accessed by all age groups. They include:

- Two functional pools
- International standard Asphalted valley ball field
- Basket ball
- Hand ball
- Table tennis
- Badminton
- *Damma*
- Dart and others games



Picture 7: Youth playing games at the Center

3.4.2 Developmental Services

The youth also benefit from the center in accessing free entrepreneurship education and training supervised by the College of Business and Economics. Such entrepreneurship education and training help improve youth's work habit, creativity, and time and life style management, and etc. Furthermore, to help the youth cope up with psycho-social stresses and resolve developmental needs associated with their age, free Guidance and Counseling services are provided by faculty of the University. The beneficiaries of the counseling and guidance services are diverse but cases that are frequently registered include drug abuse/addiction, behaviors related with social violence, academic related problems and other familial and personal difficulties.



Picture 8: Partial view of the Youth Center

3.4.3 Educational Services

The Center also provides support in areas of education. In addition to creating an edutainment environment, the Center provides free internet service so that the youth can consult educational materials available online. The center has eight functional computers with internet service.



Picture 9: Administrative Office of the Youth Center

4. Overview of University of Gondar Legal Aid Centers

By Addis Gemechu (Legal Aid Centers Coordinator)

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Despite its very young age, School of Law of University of Gondar has intensively been engaged in the provision of community services to residents of Gondar and surrounding areas. The School took on the task of serving the community by establishing a legal aid center, in 2009, that is now known for serving thousands of indigent citizens. Legal aid, which is the provision of assistance to people otherwise unable to afford cost of court litigation, is an essential tool to guarantee access to justice, a right recognized both under FDRE Constitution and international human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia.

By undertaking this huge task, University of Gondar is not only working towards fulfilling Ethiopia's constitutional and international human rights commitment but also addressing real societal problems.

The University of Gondar legal aid center is providing free legal aid services for indigent residents of Gondar City and surrounding areas with special focus on females, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV AIDS, elders, children and prison inmates who do not have sufficient financial means to afford legal services. So far, over 18,625 indigent citizens have received our free legal aid services.

The centers' services to clients include the likelihood, within court proceedings, of being assisted by legal professionals and lectures that have advocacy license. The centers, which are now expanding over both North and South Gondar Zone of Amhara National Regional State, do provide advocacy services, drafting various legal pleadings and hosting arbitration and mediation when circumstances justify. They are not only areas wherein community services are provided, but also they serve as legal clinics for law students who on weekly basis attend each centers under close supervision of law instructors and resident lawyers.

Our free legal aid centers that operate under motto of “*we are voice of the voiceless*” have so far rendered multifaceted and remarkable legal services. The services that are being given include but not limited to:

- Legal counseling,
- Human right advocacy, awareness creation,
- Preparation of various types of pleadings,
- Representation before court of law whenever necessary and others.

4.1 Description of Legal Aid Branches

The Legal Aid Center of University of Gondar is launched under full financial and material support of the University. Supported with the financial subsidy of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the legal aid center has shown tremendous expansion in number of its branches thereby increasing its accessibility to local people as number of its branches now reached fifteen. Below is the detail of each center.

4.1.1. Main Branch

This is the first and sole legal aid branch by which provision of free legal aid service is launched when the establishment of UoG Legal center is formally announced in December 2009. It rendered the first professional service to a client named Lemlem Berhe in March 2010. The administrative staff at this branch are the director, vice director, one legal professional, finance administrator and secretary. Located on third floor of Dashen Bank Building, so far it has served around 4,838 indigent clients.

4.1.2. High Court Branch

The high court branch started its operation in 2013 in an office that is provided by North Gondar Zone High Court. The staff members as of its establishment include one legal professional, students and supervising instructors.

The unique service that we provide at this branch, apart from usual services, is legal literacy programs. Fourth and fifth year students will be assigned to prepare modules on selected areas of law that will be reviewed by their supervising instructors which latter

will be delivered to appointment time awaiting court customers. **455** customers have received our free legal aid services.

4.1.3. North Gondar Zone Prison Branch

Being one of the branches launched under financial support of the Ethiopian human rights commission the prison branch is opened in 2003. The office which is granted by North Gondar Zone prison administration is located in the compound of the same institution. Currently the prison hosts around 2586 prisoners that have opportunity to use our free legal aid services. About **2164** inmates have earned our free legal aid services.

4.1.4. Azezo Branch

It is launched in 2003 with one legal expert and secretary. This branch will also receive the help of senior law students and assigned instructors who will supervise the works of legal expert and students on weekly basis.

The kebele administration has provided us with an office in a place that is very proximate to the woreda court, thereby enabling us to serve more than 1657 indigent clients.

4.1.5. Makesgnit Branch

This branch is located in North Gondar Zuria Woreda also known as Makesgnt town. From its establishment in 2003 up to 2006 when new office is provided by the woreda justice bureau, our services used to be rendered in an office that is rented by University of Gondar. Like other branches it started provision of services with secretary and legal expert. 1635 cleints have received various types of legal services.

4.1.6. Addis Zemen Branch

This is the first branch in South Gondar Zone Administration. Like our centers in Chilga and Gondar, this center has two offices located in prison and zonal administration. The latter office is granted by the mayor's office while the former office is in the prison administration. Overall 1333 customers were served at these centers.

4.1.7. Koladiba Branch

This center which is established in Dembia woreda is one of our center by which we render multifaceted free legal service. Being one of the most effective centers since its establishment, **1929** have received various legal services at office given to us by woreda court.

4.1.8. Aykel Branch

Aykel town one of the most important town in Gondar-Sudan trade route is also the other host of our legal aid center.

The Aykel branch is among the centers launched with financial support of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. The office of this center is granted by the woreda administration in the premises of police station.

In Aykel we do also have an office in the compound of prison administration that closely works on human rights of prisoners. The two offices of this branch have now served over 1942 customers.

4.1.9. Tikil Dingay Branch

Tikil Dingay, the seat of the Lay Armachiho Woreda, is another host of our legal aid center. The center, which shares one of the offices it received from the woreda court, has served about 1627 poor segments of society.

4.1.10. Ambagiorgis Branch

This is one of the two newly opened centers at Wogera Woreda of North Gondar Zone in 2013/14. Even though it is one of our youngest centers it has served 487 customers. The woreda court has to be credited in that it has formally proposed the establishment of legal aid center through one of its judges.

4.1.11. Debark

The other youngest branch center is opened in town that otherwise known for its tourist attraction sites. Having started its formal operation in January 25, 2014, it has addressed legal problems of around 512 indigent citizens. The center is grateful for the woreda court that provided us with office for operation.

4.1.12. Debre Tabor Branch

Debre Tabor branch is only established in March 2015 marking our second center in South Gondar zone of Amhara National Regional State. The South Gondar Zone Justice Office has granted us office that enabled us to provide 46 legal services in a month time.

4.2 Future Plans

Without compromising the quality of services we render at existing centers, we plan to further expand the center to other woredas with view to increase our accessibility to the poor. Even though it is informal, some woreda have proposed for opening of legal aid centers in their respective places. Particularly, Sanja woreda, Tseda town and Dabat have sought to receive our services which we look forward to address in the near future.

5. Tutorial Program to Hidar 11 High School Grade 10 Students

By: Adera Getaneh (CSSH Community Service Coordinator) and

Yusuf Addis (CNCS Community Service Coordinator)

5.1. Introduction

As part of the University' commitment to expand the horizon of community service provision in scale and type, staffs of the University have been engaged in delivering varied community services which are either product of individual initiative or organized effort made by the University. Hence, imbued by the need to look into other ways of community service offering, the staffs of the Colleges of Social Sciences and Humanities and Natural Sciences and Computation gave their support for initiating a high-school based service that can help high school students to access different levels of support academically from the University. Such a community service was rendered in line with the University's conviction to have varied service provided freely to the surrounding communities by its staff. As a newly introduced program, it was difficult to include all or many schools found in the city of Gondar. To gauge the success and feasibility of the program, it was decided that it would be better to start with one school. Based the impact to be assessed and the reaction of the school involved, the program's inclusiveness can be

stretched to include other high schools found in the city of Gondar. Thus the school selected was Hidar 11 High School.

5.2. Objective

The program had the objective of helping grade 10 students of Hidar 11 in their preparation for the National Examination. It was planned that every subjects would be treated and a total of nine subjects (5 social sciences and 4 natural sciences) were taken so that staffs would provide tutorial service.

5.3. Implementation

The program was implemented between the first week of March and the first week of May (2015). Except for one subject, tutorial classes were offered every Saturday morning. The exception was for history. The subject teacher had arranged to provide tutorial between Monday and Friday. Thus the tutorial program had been active during the aforementioned period in the days between Monday and Saturday.

5.4. Evaluation

It is the belief of the program coordinators from both colleges, as an infant program, it has been a success story in two ways. One, the program was able to draw the participation of about sixteen staffs drawn from both colleges. This could be taken a success as the trend in providing tutorial services to high schools by the university staff was not a consolidated one. This can be taken as a stepping stone in expanding the inclusiveness of the program to other schools in the coming years by promoting its relevance among the different staffs of both colleges. Two, it was possible to see that the staffs can be more than willing and committed to get participated in the delivery of such community services if the right and appropriate channels are put in place by the university. There are so many areas wherein the staff can find itself engaged in community service provision. Thus setting in the appropriate channels that could attract the attention, energy and commitment of staffs to flow into, it can be learnt from the implementation of this program, has the capacity in winning over the hearts of the staffs to commit a portion of their time and talent in providing need-tailored services to the community.

5.5. Recommendations

The coordinators of the program hence recommend:

- The need to strengthen the program by stretching its inclusiveness,
- The need to plan for an early intervention that can be started since the second or third month of the beginning of an academic year,
- The consolidation of the program by injecting some material and financial support to make the program a success. That is, each department should take a responsibility in developing tutorial manuals that can help students get prepared for national examinations.
- Broadening the inclusiveness of the program not only in terms of the number of schools but also in terms of the grade the program gives focus. That is, as of next year, plans should be made by both colleges to give tutorial classes to grade twelve students.



Picture 10: Students Attending Tutorial Classes

6. The Kossoye Development Program, 2005-15

By Andrew Carlson, Director, Kosseye Development Program

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This is the 10th anniversary of the Kossoye Development Program. Founded in 2005 by Dr. Dennis G. Carlson, a former Dean of the Haile Sellassie I Public Health College and Training Centre, the mission of KDP is “to work in partnership with the University of Gondar to assist the people in Kossoye and the North Gondar region in their efforts to improve health and food security.”

It was in 1963, fifty-two years ago, that Dr. Carlson first visited the small village of Kossoye, 25 kilometers from Gondar. The reason for the visit was a college training and community service trip. Over the next four years, until 1967, Carlson and his students spent every Friday afternoon in Kossoye. More than forty years later, Dr. Carlson and his son, Andrew, published a book on these early research and service activities titled *Health, Wealth, and Family in Rural Ethiopia: Kossoye, North Gondar Region, 1963-2007* (Addis Ababa University Press, 2008).

The formal work of the KDP was a result of findings by a research team from the University of Gondar’s Institute of Public Health showing that women and children in the Kossoye sub-district of Wogera experienced a rate of malnutrition of 52%. This is similar to rates of malnutrition and stunting in the whole of the Amhara National Regional State, according to the Ethiopian Demographic Surveys of 2005 and 2011, but it is higher than almost all other regions of Ethiopia. One reason for this comparatively greater malnutrition is a lack of a vegetable culture in the northwestern Ethiopia.

In the first phase of the program operation, from 2005 until 2010, the emphasis was on improving health and nutrition in one pilot community--the Kossoye kebele—by promoting household vegetable gardening. During these years the KDP and the University of Gondar together sponsored:

- Workshops on nutrition and health for community members, especially women and children.
- Research grants in nutrition for University of Gondar students.
- Seed distribution and horticulture training in the Kossoye elementary school and its three satellite schools in Tsion Mariam, Medhane Alem, and Amba Ras.
- A nutrition study of 430 families and 2300 individuals in the Kossoye kebele.
- A computer laboratory and computer education in the Kossoye elementary for 7th and 8th grade students.
- A latrine construction program.
- A demonstration garden at the Kossoye Health Post.

In the second phase of program operation, from 2011-2015, KDP expanded its sphere of activities to more than 30 communities in 5 woredas. In 2014-2015 the Kossoye Development Program has partnered with the University of Gondar to sponsor:

- Seed purchases and packaging at two seed banks built in 2013-14 at the University of Gondar campus at Maraki and at the Training Health Center in Dabat.
- Distribution of seed packages (with chard, carrot, lettuce, and cabbage) in 41 schools to 22,000 students as well as 8,000 families.
- Research grants for members of the Faculty of Agriculture for identifying improved potato, tomato, pepper, and onion varieties.
- Seed multiplication projects (potatoes, tomatoes, peppers) in Wokin, Kossoye, Dabat, Debark, and Gorgora.
- Workshops and training for 2,200 individuals in 2014-15.
- Demonstration Gardens at the Tewodoros and Meles Zenawi Campuses as well as the Shenkor Mesk School, Kossoye Health Post, Ambaghiorgis Health Center, Dabat Training Health Center, and Gorgora Health Center.
- A water catchment project at the Meles Zenawi Campus.

- A diffused light storage facility for improved potatoes at the new University of Gondar Highland Research Center in Dabat.

The Kossoye Development Program is now planning for Phase Three. The main goal will be to insure the sustainability of household vegetable gardening in the greater Gondar Region. Strategies to achieve this goal will include:

- Engagement of faculty members and students at the University of Gondar in interdisciplinary research and community service activities that promote food security and health, especially of women and children.
- Seed distribution to as many as 50,000 families in 2016, with packaging done by University of Gondar students as well as HIV patients in Dabat.
- Workshops for teachers and students in the basic elements of household gardening and household economics taught by faculty members and students from the University of Gondar, especially in the fields of agriculture, public health, social work, and business.
- Promotion of local production of vegetable seeds so that the supply of vegetable seeds will increase while the cost decreases.

The volunteers and friends of the Kossoye Development Program are honored to partner with the University of Gondar in its dedicated service to improving the lives of the people of Ethiopia.

7. Kossoye Development Program (KDP) as a Partner to UOG: Major Achievements

Asrat Ayalew, Head, Department of Horticulture

The Kossoye Development Program has a long history with the University of Gondar. For the past fifty years, Professor Dennis Carlson has worked in collaboration with colleagues at the Haile Sellassie I Public Health College now University of Gondar to improve health of rural Ethiopians. Since the beginning of the campaign for improved nutrition in 2006, the KDP has succeeded in convincing people at Kossoye, Dabat, Shenkor Mesk, and Dara to start household vegetable gardens. As a result, many households have more balanced diets and have a new means for earning money by selling vegetables and seeds of vegetables.

Along with the University of Gondar the KDP has established a goal of encouraging 50,000 people in the Amhara region to start household vegetable gardens. The primary strategy is to promote knowledge of gardening and nutrition through a series of workshops, supervised and taught by UoG and KDP staffs.

7.1 Major Achievements in the last five years

7.1.1. Training and Workshop

The Faculty of Agriculture together with KDP had conducted five “Great Vegetable Gardening” workshops at Gondar, Dabat, Amba Giorgis and Teda within the last five years. Greater than 500 participants (Farmers, Elementary school directors, students, health extension workers, agricultural development agents, Horticulture Club members and single mothers from Yenege Tesfa Charity Organization) attended the workshop. Frequent on-site trainings and consultation services were given to farmers on vegetable gardening and human nutrition and more than 500 household vegetable production training manuals were prepared and distributed to them.



Picture 11: Participants of the great vegetable gardening workshop

7.1.2. Vegetable Seed production

To sustain vegetable crops production, the program has given great emphasis to vegetable seed production. The Faculty of Agriculture is giving continuous trainings on vegetable production techniques in order to equip the farmers with basic knowledge and skills how to produce their own quality seeds. Now-a-days, vegetable production is becoming popular in Kossoye and Dara. Swiss chard, carrot and beet root seed producers are getting greater amount of earnings from the sale of seeds. Surprisingly, farmers produced 52 kg of Swiss chard seeds this year. The Faculty of Agriculture with the fund obtained from KDP is also producing varieties of vegetable seeds at Gorgora. In this project 12 kg tomato, 15 kg onion and 15 kg pepper quality seeds were produced. Currently, KDP and Faculty of Agriculture have stopped importing seeds of tomato, onion and Swiss chard.



Picture 12: Onion seed production at Gorgora

7.1.3. Establishment of vegetable garden at Shinta and Teda, UoG

With grant obtained from KDP, the Faculty of Agriculture had established vegetable garden at Shinta in 2011 and at Meles Zenawi Campus in 2014. These gardens are serving as a practical-based training and demonstration site for the trainees and students of Faculty of Agriculture. Students are learning by practicing on the two sites. The vegetables produced in these sites are being sold to the University community with reasonable price. The nearby community is also getting seedlings from both sites. Both gardens created full time job opportunities for 7 persons. Their monthly wage is fully paid by KDP.





Picture 13: Vegetable garden at Shinta (top) and Meles Zenawi Campus (bottom)

7.1.4. Research

As a partner of the University of Gondar, the KDP has also provided grants for research in nutrition and horticulture. The Faculty of Agriculture had conducted potato varieties adaptation research at Dara and Woken, Dabat District for two consecutive years (2012 and 2013) and recommended four varieties namely Belete, Guasa, Jalane, Gera and Gudene which gave a yield of 235, 227, 210 and 198 quintals per hectare, respectively.



Picture 14: Potato varieties Adaptation research data collection

7.1.5. Potato Seed Multiplication and Popularization Project

Although researchers in the Faculty of Agriculture had recommended four improved varieties of potato to Dabat and similar areas, still there is a lack of getting the seeds. Farmers badly need these varieties because their cultivar is becoming more susceptible to late blight of potato. Therefore, the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the KDP had multiplied two of the recommended potato varieties namely Belete and Guasa at Woken Kebele and distributed 50 quintals of sprouted potato seeds to 15 farmers at Woken, Kossoye and Shenkor Mesk. Farmers have agreed to multiply the seeds and repay the seeds they took in kind and sell the rest of their product to KDP with 40% allowance on the potato price in October 2015.

Based on the performance of the recommended and multiplied potato varieties and the need of the farmers, the Faculty of Agriculture is popularizing Variety Belete and Guasa in Debark, Dabat and Wogera districts at two kebeles in each district. The two improved varieties and the local ones are planted side by side, each on 100m² of land at each site. Half of the cost for this project is funded by KDP.



Picture 15: field day (top) harvesting and sorting (bottom)



Picture 16: Potato seed in diffused light store (top) and seed distribution (bottom)

7.1.6. Construction of Seed Bank

At Shinta vegetable garden, one vegetable seed bank is constructed. Part of the fund for the construction is obtained from KDP. Varieties of seeds are stored in this bank. Female students are involved in packing seeds with good payment



Picture 17: Inauguration of Seed Bank

7.1.7. Construction of Water reservoir

The Faculty of Agriculture constructed a 100m³ reservoir for the vegetable garden at Shinta. Water from the upper catchment will be channeled and stored in the reservoir during the main rainy season. The water will be then used for irrigating the vegetables during the dry seasons. The project is fully funded by KDP.



Picture 18: water reservoir at Mels Zenawi Campus

7.1.8. Promotion of Vegetable Gardening

The KDP financially assisted the horticulture club in its outreach service to promote school gardening. In this project, three school gardens are established at an Elementary school around Teda.



Picture 19: Horticulture club members training elementary school students at shinta

8. Community Services Projects of 2014/2015 at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences

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Summary

University of Gondar has been providing community services for the public since its establishment, six decades ago. The University encourages academic staff members to engage in teaching and research, and provides service to the community at large. The community services that the academic staffs provide are need-based, emanating from the requests and/or observed needs of the community. It is also one way of implementing the research findings into practice. Such services have also been provided to build the capacity of different members of the community and employees in various sector organizations. In 2014/2015 academic year, the University of Gondar has allocated a grant of 151,401 birr for the implementation of three community service projects in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The first project aimed to enhance the Capacity toward Integrated-Sustainable Community Based Waste Management Approaches (ISCBWMAs) in urban areas among micro-enterprises and other stakeholders in North Gondar specifically at Debark administrative town. To this end, 42 micro-enterprises and other stakeholders were screened to take part in the project. The training took place at Debark town and lasted for five days, from May 8-12, 2015. The discussion depicts that a community based approach was adopted as the most effective means of empowering communities to manage their own wastes. Active participation of town stakeholders and the beneficiary communities were ensured from the very beginning and at every stage of the project cycle. Finally, panel discussion was prepared for the administrative bodies with the trainees and other concerned stakeholders to put the way forward. In general, ISCBWMAs in Debark town administrations were very poor and disorganized. It was not even a safe way of waste

management. Therefore, waste management workers and other stake holders are eager to adopt standard systems and willing to collaborate with different sectors and organization like Gondar University to improve the traditional way of waste management systems and its sustainability.

The second project focused on Food safety training for the managers of food establishment in Gondar town. The project aimed to ensure food safety among food establishments in Gondar town. More than 75% of the project is completed until the preparation of this summary.

The 3rd project aimed to improve the health status of the traditional school pupil in North Gondar Zone. The beneficiaries are the traditional schools in particular and Gondar community in general. This project is also ongoing.

9. Community Service Projects of 2007 E.C at the College of Natural and Computational Sciences

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Summary

As part of an institution, which has established itself as a community service provider, the College of Natural and Computational Sciences (CNCS) has been carrying out various community services since its inception. Since the College is composed of both the applied sciences and the computing technologies, this has paved the way for the College to address many prevalent problems in the community and beyond. The college has been endeavoring to carry out as many community services as possible. For its quality, there is a continuous follow up to follow the guideline and procedure so that the services are provided in line with the vision of the University.

In the 2014/2015 academic year, a total of nineteen community service project proposals were submitted. The community service coordinator's office together with the core reviewers of the college assigned peer reviewers to each proposal with respect to the subject matter the proposal was ingrained. Seventeen of them were defended. Ten of the

proposals were selected for grant. The following were the projects submitted in order of their selection:

1. Awareness towards radiation exposure risk for health professionals who are working around North Gondar Administrative zone.
2. Improving public and school library services and service provisions in case of North Gondar Zone
3. Establishing science virtual laboratory for preparatory and high schools around North Gondar Administrative zone
4. Training of academicians on data management and processing of different disciplines using softwares.
5. Indoctrinating health extension workers with techniques and practices of integrated malaria vector control in selected districts of North Gondar Administrative zone.
6. Basic mushroom spawn preparation and market linkage skill training for unemployed youths.
7. Community training on improving skins and hides quality in North and South Gondar Zones, Ethiopia.
8. Math camp at preparatory schools around North Gondar Administrative zone.
9. Promotion and training of farmers to adopt highland fruit crops in the highlands of North Gondar
10. Computer laboratory management system

The college has been granted with a total of 227,102.76 for it's the projects' implementation. The projects at number 5 and 8 were not carried out. Thus, the coordinator's office decided to grant the subsequent projects entitled '**Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB) patient follow-up system for UoG Hospital**' and '**Developing help desk system for college of natural and computational sciences**'. Many of the projects were training-based ones while a few of them were centered at supporting services.

On top of these projects, the office has engaged itself in delivering various community service projects in collaboration with the community service director's office. Such community services include:

1. A community service project on supporting grade 10 students of **Hidar 11 High School** for their preparations for the national exam was delivered in mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics subject matters.
2. Training on basic computer skills to the employees of **Tseda court** in collaboration with community service coordinator's office of the College of Agriculture.
3. Training to teachers from '**Felege Abiyot Comprehensive Elementary School**' on using lab chemicals and their respective books professionally.
4. Carrying out cataloging and classification of books at the **Gondar Public Library** in addition to delivering the basic training on how to accomplish these skills.

10 Community service projects of College of Business & Economics

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University of Gondar (UoG) encourages academic staffs to engage in teaching, research works & provide community services at large. Taking lesson from the last 60 years of experience of the University, College of Business & Economics (CBE) is contributing much in solving societal problems. For more than a decade, the College staffs have been involved in community services by providing practical trainings, organizing workshops, & consultancy services in finance, investment, tourism, marketing & business management areas.

In this academic year, eight community service projects which were identified as important to solve societal problems were implemented by the College with the fund granted from the University. These were capacity building trainings & consultancy

service projects focused on improving agricultural market information, legality of cross-border cattle trade, customer service delivery in public offices, tax collection, and improvement of potable water supply, hotel service operations, tour guiding services, & heritage conservation works. The projects were implemented in Gondar, Mettema, Chilga & Bahirdar. Among all the implemented projects, up on strong recommendation & feedback of the community, improving the customer service delivery of public offices project is extended for one more year to further improve the customer service delivery of a selected sub-city in Gondar city.

In addition, the College has created a link with Vincennes city administration of France and organized consultative trainings on Museum establishment & heritage management. Fortunately, the College has also taken a contractual agreement with Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages (ARCCCH) and is now working on development of an official management plan for the world heritage sites of Gondar city.

In collaboration with Agriculture Faculty, CBE has won a grant completion of Bird Life International on Eco-tourism development at Mt.Guna to improve the livelihood of the community.

Furthermore, the College is hopeful to significantly scale up community services in the coming years with a strong trust it has on its staff involvement to serve the community on voluntary bases.

Finally, I am very much grateful to staffs involved in the provision of community services this year. I would like also to remind all the academic staffs of the college that CBE community service coordination office is always open to welcome and implement project ideas focus on solving critical societal problems.



Pictures 20: Hotel Service Training

11. Community Service Projects (2007 E.C.) of College of Social Sciences and the Humanities

By

Adera Getaneh, Community Service Coordinator, College of Social Sciences and the Humanities (Email: adera20006@yahoo.com)

Community service provision has been incorporated as one of the three pillars of the agendas of the University of Gondar. To this effect, community service rendering has become one of the hallmarks of the University's engagement in setting the driving force for community-friendly development activities. Thus, the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities has been engaged in some community service provision activities for the last ten years. As a continuation of such a tradition set, it accepted the submission of 27 community service project proposals for the 2014/15 academic year. Of these, 25 were successfully defended. Based on the budget allocated, it was decided that nine proposals ranked according to their defense results were granted. Almost all the granted projects were training-oriented. Here below is a table of the implemented community service projects in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Table: Community Service Projects Implemented (CSSH, 2007 E.C.)

S/ N	Proposal Title	Principal Project Developer	Total Budget Allocated
1	Income Generation and Business Support for Women Entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurs Association in Dembiya Woreda With Particular Emphasis of Micro and Small Enterprise	Aysheshum Terefe	40,000.00
2	A University-Community Partnership Project for Positive youth Development in Gondar Town: Youth Focused Community-based Project	Ajanaw Alemie	33,000.00
3	Identity, History and Heritage Management: Intervention on the Identification, Preservation and Promotion of Tangible and Intangible Heritages in North and South Gondar	Debash Yimam	40,000
4	Psychological Counseling and Training to Address Multi-Dimensional Needs of People Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS in Three Woredas of North Gondar Administrative Zone	Semalign Kindie	40,000.00
5	Developing the Speaking Skills, Communication Abilities and the Respective Methodological Aspects Required to Teach English Subject in English Language for Teachers Working in General Elementary Schools (7 and 8 grades) in Gondar City	Dr. Yoseph Mezgebu	33,000.00
6	Training on Integration of Population Variables into Development Planning For Sectoral Planners in North Gondar: The Application of Spectrum Software of Policy Models	Bizunesh Muluneh	40,000.00
7	Addressing the Needs of Adolescence and Youth Through Psychological Counseling: Community Counseling Service (Phase II)	Riyad Mohammed	33,000.00
8	Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health practices of Young Girls in Dembiya Woreda Through Training of Girls in The School and Mainstreaming Sexual and Reproductive Activities in the School	Belete Debebe	28,210.28
9	Entrepreneurship Training for Rural Youth in Dera Woreda, South Gondar	Mezgebu Belay	28,210.28

12. Community Service Activities in 2007 E.C. at Faculty of Agriculture

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Executive summary

During the 2014/15 academic year, the Faculty of Agriculture approved and granted six community service projects from 10 defended proposals.

1. **The first project** entitled as “Practical Training On Integrated Crop Management (ICM) of Chick Pea and Sorghum in West Belesa District” targeted to:
 - Enhance farmers knowledge and skills in relation to rhizobium inoculation of chickpea which is alternative means to add nitrogen to the soil from environment,
 - Create awareness of farmers about importance and techniques of seed priming in sorghum and chickpea cultivation,
 - Increase the application, handling, and disposal of pesticide-related knowledge of farmers, and
 - Enhance farmers’ knowledge and skill on pest identification.
2. **The second project** is entitled “Training on GIS and Remote sensing for Selected UoG Academic staff Members”. It focused on providing a training on the identified issue for the staffs of the Faculty of Agriculture. It intended to:
 - ✓ Make them familiarize with *GIS* and Remote Sensing and its application.
 - ✓ Understand how to improve the value of research and community service works of Faculty of Agriculture by applying GIS and RS.
3. **The third project**, “Improving Rural Youth through Entrepreneurship Training to Exploit the Potential of Local Opportunities” focused on young women and men to improve their entrepreneurial skills through training; to identify the available livelihood opportunities in the locality and to transfer the entrepreneurial skill through training.

4. **The fourth project**, “Up-Scaling Renewable Energy and Bio-Fertilizer Production Using Domestic Biogas Technology at Gondar Zuria Wereda”, focused on the following points.
- Improving the farmers’ skill and attitude in overall sanitation and hygiene conditions and reducing energy dependence on the biomass.
 - Increasing access to bio-energy and bio-fertilizer with reasonable cost.
 - Promoting cheap and environmentally-sound waste recycling technology.
 - Making the technology accessible to the poor rural households.
5. **The fifth project has a title of** “Training and Rendering Advisory Service to Irrigation Water users and DAS Groups of Megech, Dirma and Gorazen Model Small Scale Irrigation Schemes, Dembia and Dabat Woreda, North Gondar Zone” Focused on:
- Delivering technical advice for irrigation schemes’ water user groups to facilitate the timely start of irrigation to increase productivity.
 - Minimizing irrigation water losses by improving the users’ attitude in canal usage, increasing the efficiency in irrigation water distribution and application.
6. **The sixth project** is entitled “Participatory Natural Resource Conservation for better Livelihoods”. Targeting Quara district, North Gondar administrative zone, the project intended to:
- Create awareness about environmental resources (the nexus between soil, forest and water resources) conservation associating it with livelihood,
 - Promote existing local knowledge about environmental resource conservation among target community and stakeholders, and
 - Promote sustainable livelihood and build positive attitude and sense of ownership.

Computer Training

- With the collaboration of Information System and Information Technology Department, training was delivered on computer knowledge and skill to 20 staff members of Teda Court and police officers.

Plant Science and Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) project:

- Has been operational in four Districts: Debar k(Addis Miligebsa kebele), Wogera District (Dabir Kebele), Gondar Zuriya district (Tachi Tseda) and Denbiya District (Chenker Cherkos kebele). It helps introduce seed system on Malt Barley, Teff, chick pea, wheat and potato crops for sustainable development of the community.
- Demonstrate different linseed varieties and multiply improved wheat variety seeds at Datat station, and multiply improved seeds of Sorghum, Chickpea and Haricot bean at Belesa station. The seed will be disseminated for the surrounding farmers in the coming summer.

13. Community Services at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 2007 E.C

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The faculty is providing different community service activities namely laboratory and disease diagnostic or outbreak investigation service, animal health care service, artificial insemination service, short term trainings in selected problem solving topics, consultancy services in animal production and health, control and prevention of rabies and other serious infectious diseases to the community in Gondar and its vicinity.

1. Laboratory and Disease Diagnostic or Outbreak Investigation Services

The diagnostic and investigation service is provided when there is disease outbreak in the surrounding area. A team of experts are assigned and will go to the area where the problem occurred to observe the situation closely and bring sample to process them in the

faculty. Following the investigation, appropriate measures will be taken and advice will be provided to owners.

2. Animal Health Care Service

The veterinary clinic in University of Gondar, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine provides a wide range of veterinary services for all domestic animals. Annually, over 8000 animals get service in the clinic. In addition to regular clinic practitioners, academic staffs of the faculty are involved the service provision. Clinical case, animal disease diagnosis and treatment are some of the duties of the clinic.

Vaccination against serious and deadly diseases like rabies was also given to pets and other animals on regular bases. Besides, counselling and education about nutrition and disease prevention is given to the clients. A wide range of surgical procedures including spaying and neutering of pets, castration of equine ruminotomy, tumour excision, dehorning, and correction of hernia services were provided by skilled and experienced specialists.

3. *Pregnancy Diagnosis and Artificial Insemination*

The faculty provided pregnancy diagnosis particularly in bovine species and artificial insemination with the main aim of improving the genetic quality of herd. The faculty was engaged in providing artificial insemination services but due to lack of skilled technicians and shortage of consumables, the service was interrupted.

4. Short Term Trainings

These are projects proposed by faculty members and get budget from the University. Like a research projects, members propose a community service activity projects, evaluated and implemented. These are meanness to transfer new research findings, approaches and technologies. This year, there were eight projects implanted by faculty members. The detail of individual project is stated below.

A. Hides and skins value chain through improving pre and post slaughtering techniques in North Gondar zone.

Hide and skins are very valuable by-products of animal origin. Getting good quality of these products is a challenge in Ethiopia in which their quality is

reduced at any point in the value chain even when the animal is alive, during slaughtering, storing and processing. Therefore, training was given for slaughters, hide and skin merchants to boost the quality of hide and skins.

B. Training and workshop on major livestock diseases control and prevention

This is a training given to animal health workers, farm owners and other stakeholders in western Amhara region, northwestern Ethiopia. The objective was to improve animal health service so as to make our livestock more healthy and productive.

C. Training on reproductive management of cattle in selected districts/Gondar zone

Reproductive health is an important issue in a given farm. So as to get healthy and more productive animals' reproductive process should be normal. If problems occur in reproduction it should be managed properly. During project implementation training was given for artificial insemination technicians and animal health workers how to identify, handle or manage reproductive problems.

D. Addressing zoonotic tuberculosis: awareness creation and community health education

Tuberculosis is a serious disease which affects both human and animals. It can also be transferred from animal to human. So as to control the disease interventions must be done not only human but also on animals. In the implantation of this project, training was given for health extension workers, dairy cattle owners, cooperatives, small holders, meat inspectors, butcher shop owners and students. Such types of combinations were important to share experiences and knowledge among the participants and create favorable condition for future collaboration which is quite important to control and prevent the disease.

E. Training project for animal and public health workers and pet owners on zoonotic parasitic infections contracted from dogs and cats, north Gondar administrative zone

This project was aimed to create awareness regarding zoonotic parasitic infections in dogs and cats. These are parasitic diseases primarily affecting dogs and cats but potentially transmitted to human. Children are more likely to acquire the parasites. Keeping the health of your pet is also helpful to keep your child healthy. Despite this fact, many pet owners were not well aware of the problem. The training was given for pet owners, animal health experts.

F. Hydatidosis /echinocoosis control in Gondar town

Hydatidosis is a chronic cyst-forming parasitic helminthic disease of human beings as well as domestic and wild ungulates. Hydatidosis is highly prevalent disease in livestock in Ethiopia. When the disease occurs in human, it damages the affected organ. Surgery is the only choice as many anthelmintics are less effective to treat the cyst. Objectives of the training were enable local butchers to identify hydatid cyst during their slaughtering time and creating awareness about public health significance of hydatid cyst and the contribution of butchers in control of the disease. Hence, the training was given to butchers, butcher shop owners, meat inspectors and community leaders.

G. Training on Village Based Breeding Scheme and Open Nucleus Establishment for Genetic Improvement of Gondar Zuria Sheep

Improving the genetic potential is one and most important method to boost the productivity of animals. Importing improved breeds should not be the only solution for genetic improvement due to the fact that there are local breeds having better potential which could be improved by proper characterization and selection. In the project, one peasant association around Maksegnit was selected and farmers were trained how to select better producing and animals. They will cull unselected and allow breeding the selected group.

H. Training on integrated small holder fish farming systems and fisheries management

As fisher is one method for enhancing the food security of our farmers. There is a fishing practice around lake Tana. This was not done in modern and efficient

manner. Hence this training was designed to modernize fishing practice and possibility of establishing fish farming by integrating with other farm activities. The training was given to fishermen and cooperatives.

5. Consultancy services in animal production and health

Consultancy service is provided mostly by animal production experts. When livestock owners get problems or want to expand their farms, usually come and get the service. Even those individuals who are interested to start livestock business are also getting the service. We would like to upgrade the service at centre level service since it is very important for livestock owners as well as to those individuals who want to start the business.

14. Community Services Projects in School of Education in 2007 E.C

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Summary

In the year 2007 E.C our School acted upon two community service projects, which are sponsored by the University of Gondar. The first project was entitled “Quality Education and Leadership for all project prepared for Woreda Education Officers and School Managers located in North and South Gondar Administrative Zones.” The major objective of the project was to prepare the woreda education head officers, experts, school principals, department heads, and other selected classroom teachers in quality leadership and education found in North and South Gondar Administrative Zones. The beneficiaries of the project were 20. Among them woreda education head officers, experts, school principals were included. The training was held for three days from March 3-5/2015 at Woreta Preparatory School’s Hall. Three trainers involved from School of Education, Department of Educational Planning and Management. Our evaluation reveals that the training met its predetermined objectives.

The second project was entitled as “Sign Language Training for Primary School Teachers and Principals Teaching in Integrated Classes of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.” The main objective of the project was to outfit teachers’ knowledge and skills in sign language. The recipients of the project were 15 teachers from Tsadiku Yohannis Primary School. The training was held in two phases at Tsadiku Yohannis Primary School Hall from February 11-13/2015 and February 17-20/2015. Three teachers from Special Needs and Inclusive Education vigorously participated in the project. In order to evaluate the success of the project, post training evaluation was conducted through interview and focus group discussion. The result showed that the training was successful and trainers are equipped with the basic sign language skills which has its own contribution to the teaching learning process.

Besides, the School performed the following community service activities which are not sponsored by the University. Training on action research and its application for 25 Gondar Poly Technique College Teachers, Sign language and Braille writing and reading skill training for North Gondar education officers and other stakeholders. Furthermore, training was delivered on action research and its application for North Gondar TVET teachers.

15. Community Services of the School of Law in 2007 E.C

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Summary

School of Law, University of Gondar, has been engaged in community service through its Legal Aid Center and its 14 branches in North Gondar and South Gondar Zones. Thousands of indigent people have been beneficiaries. At the beginning of this academic year, the school has established Community Service Coordinating Office. The Staff of the School apart from their weekly free legal service in clients counseling and representation, they were involved in legal awareness creation campaigns in pressing legal issues.

In this academic year, two community service projects had been submitted, defended and granted birr 12,616.83 each. Both projects involved legal training to different stakeholders. Under the first project entitled ‘Accelerating the Campaign Against Early Marriage in North Gondar Zone’, training was given to some 50 school children, school principals and police officers at Kola Diba town about the effects of early marriage and how to fight it. Dembia woreda is known for its child marriage albeit decreasing, early marriage is still being practiced. During the discussion and feedbacks given by the participants, it was possible to identify legal awareness problem on the part of the family and the community regarding the harmful consequences of early marriage. School children involved in the training pledged to impart what they learned to their classmates and families. School principals also agreed to facilitate peer learning about child marriage and its undesirable consequences, including school dropouts.



Picture 21: School Children at the ‘Fight against Early marriage’ training (Kola Diba)

The second project entitled ‘Legal Awareness Creation Training on Basic Constitutional, Substantive and Procedural Laws to Social Court Judges in Debark Town’ was delivered to some 21 social court judges. Though these judges give justice to the largest portion of the society, they did not have legal training and this training has given them an opportunity to acquire knowledge to fill the gaps in their practice. During the lively discussions, participants identified their pressing problems and responses were given to solve these problems.



Picture 22: Social Court Judges at Training (Debank)

In both projects, it was found out that there must be sustainable awareness creation training to school children and their families to eradicate early marriage and social court judges to enable them give fair and effective justice to the largest portion of the society at the grassroots level.

Apart from granted projects, there were other community service works undertaken by our School on legal awareness. The School staffs gave training on Ethiopian electoral law to about 26,000 persons: University Council Members, administrative staff, academic staff and students. In addition, training on electoral law was delivered to high school teachers in Gondar city. Furthermore, legal awareness training on anti-terrorism law was given to more than 2000 youth of Gondar City. No doubt, these trainings had (and will have) positive impacts on the pre- and post- Fifth National Election.

Female academic staffs were also trained on reproductive health rights by our School staffs. Senior students have carried out legal awareness to court clients at North Gondar High court about land and procedural laws and to prisoners about their fundamental human and constitutional rights at North Gondar Prison Administration.

Thus, our School staffs have been fully engaged in community service works and this will be more strengthened in the coming budget year. Particularly, students will be engaged in community service works through the Human Rights Club.

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